



Filed Via Express Mail

Rec. No.: EV 332244965US

On : February 6, 2004

By

Eric L. Maldonado

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No.50-1290.

Attorney Docket No. KAM 20.684 (100799-00085)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Ryoichi OTAKI  
Serial No.: 10/688,850  
Filed: October 16, 2003  
Title: STARTING APPARATUS...  
Examiner:  
Art Unit: 3748  
Con. No.: 9450

February 6, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the documents listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

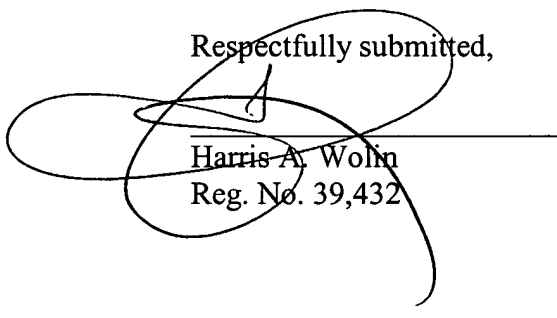
As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

**Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.**

Respectfully submitted,



Harris A. Wolin  
Reg. No. 39,432

**CUSTOMER NO.: 026304**  
(Tel) 212-940-8800  
KAM 20.684(100799-00085)

Please type a plus sign (+) → +

Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/688,850
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <u>Sheet 1 of 2</u>		Filing Date : October 16, 2003
		First Named Inventor: R. OTAKI
		Group Art Unit : 3748
		Examiner Name :
		Attorney Docket No. : KAM 20.684

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document Number <sup>2</sup>	Kind Code if known <sup>3</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5,033,921		YASUHARA, et al.	07/23/1991	
		4,481,842		NELSON	11/13/1984	
		3,848,476		KRAUS	11/19/1974	
		4,215,595		KRAUS	08/05/1980	
		4,408,503		KRAUS	10/11/1983	
		4,422,351		KRAUS	12/27/1983	
		4,440,043		KRAUS	04/03/1984	
		4,620,455		KRAUS	11/04/1986	
		4,846,008		KRAUS	07/11/1989	
		4,709,589		KRAUS	12/01/1987	
		3,941,004		KRAUS	03/02/1976	
		3,945,270		NELSON, et al.	03/23/1976	

### FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		2000-297730	JP	NSK LTD	10/24/2000	
		8-247240	JP	MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND	09/24/1996	
		2000-120820	JP	NTN CORP	04/28/2000	
		59-113357	JP	TOYODA CHUO KENKYUSHO KK	06/30/1984	

### Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1\* if possible. \* Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Please type a plus sign (+) → +

Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/688,850
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b> <b>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <u>Sheet 2 of 2</u>		Filing Date : October 16, 2003
		First Named Inventor: R. OTAKI
		Group Art Unit : 3748
		Examiner Name :
		Attorney Docket No. : KAM 20.684

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		6,397,808		TANAKA, et al.	06/04/2002	

### FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		2000-61189	JP	NTN CORP	02/29/2000	Corresponds to US Patent No. 6,397,808
		0 856 462	EP	NSK LTD	08/05/1998	
		2001-059469	JP	HONDA MOTOR CO LTD	03/06/2001	

### Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1\* if possible. \* Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.